

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER/ARA/APU:FVORTIZ:MMG

APPROVED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH

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DOD/DSAA:ADMIRAL PEET (DRAFT)

PM/SAS:JLADD

DOD/GC:BFORMAN

AID/LA/GC:ILEVY

DOD/ISA:AMB. CORRIGAN (DRAFT)

S/S: MR. FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: CUBA TRADE (SECTION 620(A)(3) GOA VESSELS

REFS: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5323; (B) USDAO MESSAGE182135Z
JULY 74; (C) STATE 152021; (D) MILGP MESSAGE 192140Z JULY

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED BUENOS AIRES REFTEL IS VERY
HELPFUL IN CLARIFYING FACTS WHICH BEAR ON A DETERMINATION
BY THE USG WITH RESPECT TO SECTION 620(A)(3). AT THE TIME
WE SENT REF C, FACTS WERE NOT CLEAR AND THATIS WHY OUR
DETERMINATION WAS CONDITIONED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT NO
ARGENTINE FLAG VESSEL WAS CARRYING OR WAS SCHEDULED TO
CARRY GOODS TO OR FROM CUBA.

2. IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL BASIS FOR DETERMINATION
THAT SECTION 620(A)(3) NEED NOT BE APPLIED, AND TO AVOID
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POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU ARE REQUESTED

TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL TO REVIEW THIS MATTER. TIMING AT YOUR DISCRETION. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS GRATIFICATION OVER GOA EFFORTS AS DESCRIBED BY MINISTER MEDUS AND STATE THAT YOU WISH TO CONFIRM OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOA WILL ENSURE THAT CARGOES IN THE CUBAN TRADE WILL HENCEFORTH NOT BE CARRIED ON ARGENTINE FLAG VESSELS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THESE MEASURES MAY NOT REMAIN IN EFFECT INDEFINITELY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT THE PRESENT POLICY OR INTENTION OF THE GOA TO USE ARGENTINE FLAG VESSELS TO CARRY GOODS TO OR FROM CUBA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. YOU SHOULD ALSO REGISTER THE POINT THAT SHOULD WE RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES WE WOULD INDICATE THAT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE GOA THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE SHIPMENT OF CARGOES IN THE CUBAN TRADE ON VESSELS NOT UNDER ARGENTINE REGISTRY. SHOULD GOA EXPRESS CONCERN THAT SUCH INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, YOU MAY INDICATE THAT USG IS IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO CONGRESS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

3. SHOULD VIGNES OR OTHER OFFICIAL CONTACTED INDICATE THAT GOA WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS OR GIVE THE NECESSARY CONFIRMATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING, YOU SHOULD ASK HIS COMPREHENSION OF OUR INABILITY TO HONOR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SEEK HIS COOPERATION IN NOT MAKING NEW REQUESTS SO THAT WE WOULD NOT BE OBLIGED TO TURN THEM DOWN FORMALLY. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GOOD US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS WE HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH GOA OVER THIS ISSUE. WITH THIS IN MIND WE AGREED TO ISSUE LICENSES TO CERTAIN SUBSIDIARIES OF AMERICAN FIRMS TO TRADE WITH CUBA. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE GOA ATTACHES AS GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US AND IT WILL ALSO BE WILLING TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO AVOID A DISPUTE OVER OUR DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THESE PROBLEMS.

4. WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM WITH ORFILA. KISSINGER

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